

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 were examined. Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 3, 11-13 and 20 are canceled; and claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 14-16, 18, 21 and 22 are amended. Thus, claims 1, 2, 4-10, 14-19 and 21-25 are pending. Applicants hereby request further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

The Patent Office objected to claims 1, 10 and 18 because the limitation "a conferencing session" in those claims should have read "the conferencing session." Claims 1, 10 and 18 have been amended to make this correction.

Claims 1, 9-11, 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kline (U.S. Patent No. 5,350,699) in view of Laursen et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0002448). Claims 2, 7, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kline in view of Laursen et al. and further in view of Mills et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0167915). Claims 3-6, 13, 14 and 20-23 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants wish to seek expeditious issuance of a patent containing claims directed to subject matter found allowable by the Patent Office. Thus, independent claims 1, 10 and 18 are amended to present allowable claims 3, 13 and 20, respectively, in independent form. Claims 3, 13 and 20 are canceled. Additionally, dependent claims 4, 5, 14-16, 21 and 22 are amended to now depend from independent claims 1, 10 and 18, respectively. Consequently, all claims currently presented for consideration (i.e., claims 1, 2, 4-10, 14-19 and 21-25) are considered allowable. Nevertheless, Applicants do not acquiesce to the rejections of claims 1, 2, 7, -12, 15-19, 24 and 25, and reserve the right to withdraw the present amendment should the Patent Office cite new grounds for rejection, and to present claims drawn to the same or similar subject matter for consideration in a continuing application.

The examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-6, 13, 14 and 20-23 appears to be in error. Consequently, Applicants submit the following substitute statement:

The prior art of record fails to disclose, teach or suggest a method for providing a conferencing session as recited in claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 14-19 or a conferencing system suitable for providing a

conferencing session to a plurality of participants as recited in claims 21-25.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Issuance of the present application as a patent is therefore solicited.

It is believed no fee is due at this time. However, should the Examiner disagree, please charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 19-2179. Please also charge this deposit account, at any time during the pendency of this application, for any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.25.

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